SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DC/R 527

DATE: March 3, 1953

SUBJECT: Anti-Communist Underground in Guatemala

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Roderico Anzueto, Jr.
MID - Mr. Fisher

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Cabot

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Mr. Roderico Anzueto, Jr. is the son of General Roderico Anzueto who was Chief of Police and Minister of Agriculture in the Guatemalan Government under General Ubico. Mr. Anzueto presented a calling card of his father carrying personal greetings to Mr. Cabot. According to his son, General Anzueto left Guatemala permanently in July 1944, following Ubico's resignation, and now lives at Col. Bella Vista, Cuernavaca, Mor., Mexico.

Mr. Anzueto, who lives in Guatemala City with other members of his family, said he is a member of a secret student group affiliated with the anti-Communist underground, which is in contact with ex-army officers inimical to the present government, including General Anzueto, Colonel Roberto Barrios Peña, who lives in Guatemala City, and Colonel Julio Pablo Garcia, who lives in San Salvador but occasionally visits Guatemala.

Mr. Anzueto said that the students are anxious for action and despite the lack of sufficient arms to assure even a minimum chance of success are considering making an attempt soon to overthrow the government of Arbenz by force. I gathered from Mr. Anzueto that the military strength of the underground movement is relatively small.

Mr. Anzueto showed me an address book which, he said, members of the underground in El Salvador pilfered last December from the effects of one Otto Raul Gonzales, a Guatemalan student and member of the leftist PAR party, who was passing through the country on the way home from the "Peace Congress" in

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SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

in Peiping. Glancing through it, I noted the names of some well known Central American leftists and Communists such as Edelberto Torres, as well as innocuous ones such as Mr. Robert McVea, Director of the American School in Guatemala City. Mr. Anzueto said he would send me a list of the names in the book.

Mr. Anzueto described himself as a medical student in the University of San Carlos, Guatemala City, but said he has dropped behind somewhat because of his activities in the underground, which included working in the Instituto Guatemalteco de Seguridad Social, where he kept an eye on the old-time Communist Ovando Sanchez and Villagran, both employed there as carpenters. Mr. Anzueto said one of his brothers is a director of the opposition political group, Comite Civico Nacional. He said his family owns two fincas between Escuintla and Jalin, which had been sequestered by the government until 1950 because of his father's position in the Ubico regime.

Mr. Anzueto said that although no member of the underground was arrested after the riots of February 9, 1953, he is afraid that government agents have penetrated their organization and that liquidation of members may soon begin. He said he also fears a civil war will break out in the country, which he said would be a disaster if fought to the finish. He said the underground does not count in any way on support from the army even though a few officers on active duty sympathize with them.

Mr. Anzueto is staying at the Statler and is going on to Boston to visit friends before returning to Mexico, San Salvador and Guatemala.

ARA:MIL:JWFisher:mcm